INTRODUCTION:

The following outline material conveys the view of those who seek to restore the early church in today’s age. In fashion similar to the Reformation Movement, one might call these people part of a “Restoration Movement.” The concept is simple: If we preach, teach, and practice what the apostles did in the early years of the church, we will be able to restore the church that Jesus built, Matthew 16:18. In doing this we rely upon the divine inspiration of the apostles as promised them in chapters 14-16 of the Gospel of John. The early church was catholic (universal and non-denominational). Names for the church were not necessary because only one church existed. In fact, the usual reference to the church in the New Testament was simply “church.” (Note the absence of a capitol “c” in the word, suggesting the translators understood that the word is not to be used as a part of a name, but only a description of the called out body of believers. Only because the ideas of men infiltrated the church, was it divided to the extent that names were used to distinguish between groups teaching different doctrines. That the Apostle Paul was very much concerned with division causing false doctrine finding its way into the church is evident from his emotionally packed comments in Acts 20:17-35. Furthermore, Romans 16:17, the first three chapters of 1Corinthians, and Peter’s remarks in 2Peter 2:1-3:17 indicate the same concerns. In John 17:20-21 Jesus prays fervently for the unity of His disciples, both the inner circle and those followers from then to now who believe because of the testimony of the eye-witnesses then in His presence.

Lesson One: The Word “Church” and its Use

1. *Ekklesia*: From *Ek* (out of) and *Klesis* (a calling) 115 Times in N. T.
2. Secular use -- Acts 19:29
3. Mob -- Acts 19:32
4. Of Israel -- Acts 7:38
5. By Christ of His church -- Matthew 16:18
6. General Usage in the New Testament
7. Universal body of saved -- Mat. 16:18, Eph. 1:22, Eph. 5:25, Col. 1:18
8. The local congregation -- 1Cor. 1:2, 1Thes. 1:1, Rom. 16:4
9. The church in a wider local, not assembled -- Acts 5:11, Acts 8:1, 3
10. The church assembled in one place -- 1Cor 11:18
11. The Relationship Suggested by *Ekklesia*
12. Called out of darkness, into the kingdom -- Col. 1:12-13
13. Called out of darkness into the light -- 1Pet. 2:9-10, 1John 1:1-10
14. Individuals called into a body -- 1Cor. 12:12-13, 27, Eph. 1:22-23, 4:4
15. THEREFORE:
16. Division of the church into denominations is not scriptural
17. One body calls for only one head (Christ)
18. Entrance into the church depends upon salvation and nothing more

Lesson Two: Establishment of the Church

1. Old Testament Prophecy
2. Psa. 2:6-7 -- God’s Son to sit on the throne in Zion (Psa. 45:6-7, Psa. 110:1-4)
3. Isa. 2:2-4 – Victory: kingdom to begin in Jerus: peace, Gentiles, word
4. Isa. 11:1-12 -- Righteous Son of David, peace and safety in the kingdom
5. Isa. 53 -- The unbelievable report of the kingdom and its king
6. Dan. 2:28-45 -- Victorious kingdom during the Roman Empire
7. Jesus and the Kingdom
8. Mat. 4:17 -- The kingdom “at hand”
9. Mat. 16:18 -- Jesus yet to build His kingdom
10. Mat. 16:28, Mark 9:1 -- The kingdom came in that generation (power)
11. John 15:26-27, 16:7-13 -- H S to comfort, witness, guide into truth
12. Luke 24:47-49 -- The power to come in Jerusalem, witnessing to begin
13. Acts 1:4-8 -- Power (H. S. baptism), witness “not many days hence”
14. The Kingdom Begins
15. Acts Ch. 2, 10, 11 -- The baptism of H.S. a sign to begin the church
16. Acts 2:32, 3:15, etc. -- The witness begins
17. Acts 2:47 -- The saved added to the universal body of believers
18. Col. 1:13 -- Saints delivered into Christ’s kingdom
19. Rev. 1:9 -- John and those to whom he wrote were in the kingdom

Lesson Three: Church Figures and Descriptions

1. Body of Christ
2. 1Cor. 12:12-28 -- Many members (individuals) with different uses, same goal
3. Rom. 12:3-8 -- Different members (offices) all should work to the fullest
4. Col. 1:18 - Christ is the head, has all authority
5. Eph. 1:22-23 -- The body is the receptacle of all God’s blessings
6. Bride of Christ
7. 2Cor. 11:2 -- A bride is chaste
8. Eph. 5:25-27 -- Christ made the bride clean
9. Eph. 5:30 -- Unity with Christ
10. Isaiah 62:4 -- “Beulah Land”
11. Temple of God
12. 1Cor. 3:16 - Unity is important
13. Eph. 2:19-22 - Built upon the foundation of truth
14. 1 Cor. 3:16, 1Cor. 6:19 – Church and body = Holy habitation for God’s Spirit
15. 1Pet. 2:5 -- Living stones, spiritual house, sacrifices
16. 1Timothy 6:6 -- Godliness is a necessity
17. Kingdom of God
18. Mat. 13:33 & Luke 13:20 -- Also called the kingdom of heaven
19. Mat. 4:17 -- Jesus taught the Jews to be ready for the kingdom
20. Mat. 16:18-19 -- Jesus built His church, but gave Peter the keys to the kingdom
21. Isa. 9:7, Acts 2:30-33, Eph. 1:19-23 -- Jesus rules kingdom from David’s throne
22. Mk. 9:1, Lk. 24:49, Acts 1:4-8 -- Jesus predicted the kingdom within a generation
23. Col. 1:13, Heb. 12:22-28 -- We enter into and receive the kingdom
24. Rev. 1:9 -- John was in the kingdom along with his readers
25. Eph. 1:19 -- Christians are fellow-citizens with all other saints
26. The Priesthood of Christ
27. 1Pet. 2:5-9 -- A holy priesthood offers up spiritual sacrifices to God
28. Rom. 12:1-2 -- Christians offer up their bodies a sacrifice to God
29. Phil. 4:18 -- Contribution is a sacrifice
30. Heb. 13:15-16 -- Praise to God and good deeds are sacrifices
31. The Family of God
32. 2Cor. 6:17-18 -- We are sons and daughters of God, our Father
33. Eph. 2:19 -20 -- Household of God
34. 1Tim. 3:15 -- House (hold) of God is the church: proper behavior required
35. Gal. 6:10 -- Do good unto all men and especially to the household of faith
36. God’s Plantation (Vineyard)
37. Mat. 13:3-9, 18-23 -- The Parable of the Sower: Seed is the Gospel
38. Rom. 1:16 -- The gospel is God’s power to save
39. Phil. 1:4-5, Rom. 10:13-15 -- Church is the agency by which men hear the gospel
40. Eph. 3:9-10, 1Cor. 1:18-25 -- The church reveals the wisdom of God
41. The Sheepfold
42. John 10:16 -- Jews and Gentiles to be brought together into **one** fold (enclosure)
43. John 10:7, 14 -- Jesus is the door and the shepherd
44. 1Pet. 5:1-4 - Elders are under-shepherds and lead the local flock
45. Acts 20:28-31 -- Elders watch, protect flock from wolves (false teachers)
46. Descriptions of the Church (not Names):
47. Acts 20:28 -- The church of God
48. Rom. 16:16 -- The churches of Christ
49. 1Tim. 3:15 -- The pillar and ground of the truth
50. Heb. 12:23 -- The general assembly
51. Heb. 12:23 -- The church of the firstborn
52. Acts 8:3 -- Mostly called “the church” (no name necessary when one church exists)

Lesson Four: Members & Membership

1. Members are Called:
2. Acts 5:14 -- Members called “believers”
3. Acts 6:1 -- Members called “disciples”
4. Acts 9:13, Rom. 1:7 -- Members called “saints” (all, not just a few)
5. Acts 11:26, 1Pet. 4:16 -- Members called “Christians”
6. 1John 3:1-2 -- Members called “sons of God”
7. 1Pet. 2:9 -- Members called “priests” (all, not just a few)
8. 1Pet. 2:11 -- Members called “pilgrims”
9. Membership
10. Acts 2:47 -- Membership depends upon salvation
11. Rom. 1:16, 1Cor. 1:21, 2Thess. 2:13-14 -- Gospel is God’s power to save
12. Rom. 10:13-17 -- Gospel preached: hear, believe, call, obey
13. Acts 3:19, 2Cor. 7:10, Acts 2:37-38 -- Repentance follows belief and sorrow (Mt. 5:3-4)
14. Rom. 6:17, 1Pet. 1:22 -- Obedience to gospel necessary
15. Gal. 3:26-27, Rom. 6:3-8, 1Pet. 3:21, Col. 2:11-12 -- Baptized into Christ
16. Acts 2:14-17- - The process exemplified (Also see Acts 8, 10, 16, 18:8, 19:5, 22:16)

Lesson Five: Miscellaneous Information About the Church

1. Christ and the Church
2. Mat. 16:18 -- Christ is its founder
3. 1Cor. 3:11 -- Christ is its foundation
4. Acts 20:28 -- Christ purchased it with His blood
5. Eph. 5:25 -- Christ gave Himself up for it because He loved it
6. Eph. 1:22-23 -- Christ is its head and authority
7. Eph. 5:23 -- Christ is the savior of the body, the church
8. Organization of the Church
   1. Eph. 4:11-- The list of officers (minus deacons)
   2. Eph. 1:22-23 -- Christ is its head
   3. 1Tim. 3:5, Heb. 13:7 & 17, 1Pet. 5:1-4, Acts 20:28-31 -- Elders (pastors, bishops)
   4. oversee, feed the church
   5. 1Tim. 3:8-13, Phil. 1:1 -- Deacons minister the physical needs of the church (Acts 6:1-6)
   6. Timothy & Titus -- Ministers (preachers, evangelists) serve the church’s spiritual needs
   7. Acts 18:26, Titus 2:3-4, 2Tim. 2:2 -- Teachers instructed the church
   8. 1Tim. 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9 -- Qualifications for elders and deacons
9. Worship of the Church
   1. John 4:23-24 -- Christians are to worship God in spirit and in truth
   2. Mat. 18:20, 1Pet. 2:2, Mat. 5:13-16 -- For many reasons, we should worship regularly
   3. Acts 20:7, 1Cor. 16:1-2, Acts 2:42, 1Cor. 11:17-34 - The Lord’s Supper
   4. Eph. 6:19, Col. 3:16 -- Christians worship in song
   5. 1Cor. 16:1-2, 2Cor. 8:1-5 -- The church contributed every Lord’s Day
   6. Acts 2:42, 1Tim. 2:1,8, 1Cor. 14:16, -- Public prayer
   7. Acts 2:42, 2Tim. 4:2-5 -- Instruction in the word
10. Unity in the Church
11. John 17:20-21 -- Christ prayed for unity of all believers
12. 1Cor. 1:10 -- Local unity demanded (first three chapters)
13. James 3:13-18 -- Righteousness comes only in peace
14. Mat. 5:23-24, 6:9-15, 1 John 4:7-12 -- Worship & Love of God requires that we love each other
15. Authority in the Church
    1. John 17:1-8 -- God the Father
    2. Eph. 1:19-22 -- Jesus received all authority from the Father
    3. Mat. 28:18-19, Jn. 16:7-15, 2Cor. 5:20 -- Jesus passed authority to the Apostles
    4. Jude 3, 2Jn. 9-11, 2Tim. 1:13, 2Thes. 2:13-15, -- Authority of the word
16. The Work of the Church
    1. Acts 8:4, 1Thes. 1:5-8, Mat. 5:13-16 -- Evangelism
    2. 2Cor. 8:1-15, 1 Cor. 16:1-3, (Gal. 6:10) -- Benevolence
    3. Eph. 4:11-16, 2Pet. 1:3-10, Gal. 6:6-8, 2Tim. 2:2, 4:2-4 -- Edification
17. Discipline in the Church
18. Matthew 18:15 -- Progression of intensity, for sin generally
19. 1Cor. 5:3-12 -- Purpose and actions involved, for immorality
20. Rom. 16:17--18 - For false doctrine and division
21. 1Tim. 5:20 -- Even elders that sin must be rebuked
22. Identity of the Church
23. Col. 3:17, Acts 11:26 -- God’s church wears the name of Christ
24. John 17:20-23 -- God’s church is unified in love
25. John 4:23-24 -- True worshippers worship in spirit and in truth
26. 2John 9-11 -- God’s church teaches the truth (salvation, worship, morals)
27. 2Cor. 6:16, James 1:27 -- God’s church keeps separate from the world
28. Abrogation of the Law of Moses
29. Matthew 5:17-20 -- Jesus to fulfill the law
30. Romans 7 -- Law has died & we are married to Christ
31. Hebrews 8:7-13 -- A new covenant to replace the law given at Sinai
32. 2Corinthians 3:6-11 -- Law written in stone “done away.”
33. Galatians 3 & 4 -- Eight arguments against the Mosaic Law.